Housing assistance to beedi workers in Orissa

2376. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beedi workers in Orissa who have been given assistance for housing, under the relevant scheme over the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the thin spread of engineering personnel of the Central Government for the scheme in Orissa, the progress has suffered; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider transferring the administration of the scheme to the State Government, for better results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Details of houses sanctioned to beedi workers in various districts in Orissa, during the last three years are as under:

2003-04	—	242 Houses
2004-05	—	3525 Houses; and
2005-06	—	43 Houses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The State Government is already designated as the implementing agency, hence no further action is required.

Funds for rehabilitation of children

2377. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any funds allocation for rehabilitation of the children affected due to implementation of the Child Labour Abolition Act;

(b) if so, the details of the allocation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has allocated funds for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations/processes due to the enforcement of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Government is implementing schemes for rehabilitation of such children, namely, National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for which an allocation of 602 crores has been made in the 10th Plan, and INDUS Project a joint project of US Department of Labour and Government of India for which an allocation of Rs. 65 crores has been made as Government of India's share in the 10th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Combining Jatropha cultivation with NREGS

2378. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to combine the cultivation of Jatropha with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Tree plantation is a permissisble activity under NREG Act, 2005. Cultivation of Jatropha may, therefore, be taken up under the existing provisions of the Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Potable water crisis

†2379. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of potable water crisis in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.